



Town of Blades
OFFICE OF MAYOR & COUNCIL
20 W Fourth Street
Blades, Delaware 19973-4122
(P) 302.629.7366 (F) 302.629.0199

***Town Council Meeting
Hardin Hall
7:00PM
May 12th, 2014***

Present: Mayor Michael J. Smith, Councilman Russell Joseph, Councilman Robert Atkinson, Councilman John Reiss, Councilman David Ruff; Town Administrator Vikki Prettyman

Absent: Councilman Earl Chaffinch, Sr.,

Meeting Opened at 7:01pm with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from April 14th, 2014 Town Council Meeting and Executive Session Meeting; motion to accept in written form by Councilman Reiss; seconded by Councilman Atkinson; motion passed. Minutes from May 8th, 2014 Town Council Meeting and Executive Session Meeting; motion to accept in written form by Councilman Ruff; seconded by Councilman Reiss; motion passed.

Police Report – not submitted by Chief Cooke

BEDCO – No minutes available at the time of this meeting...As soon as I receive them they will post on the website.

P&Z – No meeting in May.

Committee Reports:

- Housing/Code – Code Report Submitted & Attached in the minutes.
- Water report - submitted by Brandon Slater; read by Commissioner Atkinson. Commissioner report submitted in writing.
- Parks & Cemetery – Commissioner Ruff stated the meetings and events that he attended for the month since the last council meeting; he also stated he spoke to the Chief about the park cameras not working; and the town donated 2 trees to the fire company in memoriam of the passed members of the fire company and the ladies auxiliary. It was a nice service.
- Streets - Commissioner Joseph stated the meetings he attended since the last council meeting; the new blacktop extending W Fourth Street is completed; the town will be asking Representative Short for funding of some drainage and ditch maintenance; also the Commissioner stated he was working on a pothole list.
- Police Report – No further information to report. The Mayor shared that Commissioner Chaffinch was back in the hospital for complications but is doing better; the Mayor also announced the passing of Commissioner Chaffinch's brother and we send our condolences to the entire family.
- Mayor's Report – Written report submitted.



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❖ New Business:

- Resolution #2014.05.12 R01
 - Synopsis: Change the fee schedule for Notary Fee: \$2.00 charge only to non-residents and non-property owners. No charge to town residents or property owners. Motion to accept Resolution #2014.05.12 R01 by Councilman Atkinson; seconded by Councilman Reiss; motion passed.
- Resolution #2014.05.12 R02
 - Synopsis: Resolution for the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, National Missing Children's Day. Take 25 Resolution for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; motion by Councilman Ruff to accept said resolution; seconded by Councilman Reiss; motion passed.
- 5.8 Retirement Plan
 - Synopsis: The town participates in the State Pension Plan for full time Police Officers, the should change to certified sworn in Police Officers and full time and part time municipal employee, should change to after the 90 day probationary period. Motion to accept change in Personnel Policy 5.8 Retirement Plan by Councilman Reiss; seconded by Councilman Joseph; motion accepted.
- 10.5 Driving Record, 10.10 On the Job Accidents, 10.11 Safety Workplace Program
 - Synopsis: Adding driving record procedures, adding requirements to reports all on the job incidents to the town administrator, and adding the safety workplace program into the personnel policy, as requested by our insurance company, researched other towns, and the town is receiving a discount on our workers compensation policy due to the implementation of 10.11. Changes to the language regarding discipline procedures; motion to accept after the language change by Councilman Reiss; seconded by Councilman Atkinson; motion accepted.

❖ Good of the Community:

- Ron Dejewski asked about the town's police officer situation. Can we have another department work with the town? Will other cities come in?
 - Discussion regarding the insurance reasons it is not possible for other towns to come in and work. Mr. Dejewski then asked how many officers it takes to be full-time; it would take 7 to 9. If the taxes were raised the town could afford the increase in officers; currently at the time they apply it is entry level; the go to the academy and serve the contract and then move on; it is this way with all the towns. If it is this way now; will it ever change?
 - Bill Thomas stated that Greenwood, Frankford, Felton, Dagsboro, the Chief is out working and not in the office like Cooke working 8 to 4.
 - Commissioner Atkinson stated that we will have staggered officers in the academy. The recruit is due to June/July with the ride along he will be here August; the Mayor stated that the FTO will be with Bridgeville; from what the Mayor stated that the FTO will come here to the town for ride along here in town.



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- Bill Thomas complained that the Chief didn't investigate his problem. The Chief doesn't know how to do an investigation and this is the second time that he has done something wrong; Bill Thomas stated that he doesn't belong as the Chief of Police. And as far as the ride along; the town should make the Chief do his job and train the recruit. Chief needs to do his job; the town needs to wake up and smell the roses; the town has the wool over his eyes. Bill Thomas asked for Commissioner Joseph to look at the manhole that is in his court; Commissioner will review the manhole and see if they can put coal mix around it.
- Dawn Reiss asked if the Chief will be in town Memorial Day weekend or will he be in Dewey Beach; the Mayor stated that he will make sure he stays in town.
- Starr Kulikauski asked about the cameras at the park; waiting for the parts to come in and work to be scheduled; Tull-Ramey the grounds look bad, Mayor stated that Marcus knows about the situation. How about the lot across from Fran's; Mayor stated that is out of town; how about the well, waiting to review the documents from the state under FOIA. What about the Pizza place; BJ's wants pictures and the town administrator is helping the manager get the pictures for pride walls; but seems that they are still cleaning. What about Fran's? It is supposed to be a liquor store but hasn't heard anything.
- Councilman Ruff stated that the anniversary committee meeting is at 6:30pm and some of the areas of interest are; parade, open house, car show, events at the park, events at the park, little miss blades pageant, geo-caching, time capsule, contest with the school.
- Live for Chocolate was a success and brought traffic to our Marina, The Day Spa at the Marina, and to Seaford Florist. Pleased that the town administrator helped out with the event.
- HB333; Bob Atkinson will attend the committee hearing; this is limiting our taxes powers. Meeting on Wednesday.

No further comments.

Mayor closed the meeting at 8:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vikki Prettyman
Town Administrator